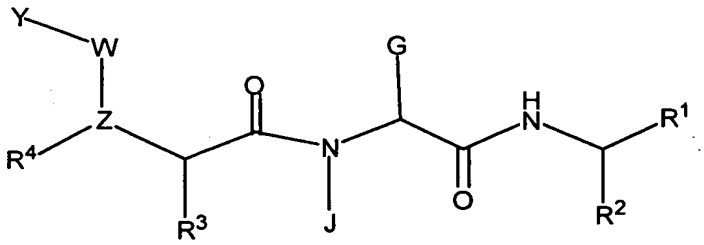
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers and tautomers of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, said compound having the general structure shown in Formula I:



Formula I

wherein:

G, J and Y may be the same or different and are independently selected from the group consisting of the moieties: H, alkyl, alkyl-aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, aryl-heteroaryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, alkyl-aryloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, alkylamino, arylamino, alkyl-arylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, cycloalkylamino and heterocycloalkylamino, with the proviso that Y maybe additionally optionally substituted with X^{11} or X^{12};

X^{11} is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, alkylheteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl moiety, with the proviso that X^{11} may be additionally optionally substituted with X^{12};

X^{12} is hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonamido, arylsulfonamido, carboxy, carbalkoxy, carboxamido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonyloxy,

alkylureido, arylureido, halogen, cyano, or nitro, with the proviso that said alkyl, alkoxy, and aryl may be additionally optionally substituted with moieties independently selected from X^{12};

R^1 is COR^5 or $B(OR)_2$, wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of OH, OR^8, with the proviso that R^8 is not alkyl, NR^9R^{10}, CF_3, C_2F_5, C_3F_7, CF_2R^6, R^6 and COR^7 wherein R^7 is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR^8, CHR^9R^{10}, and NR^9R^{10} , wherein R^6, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different and are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, $CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})R'$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})COO\ R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})COO\ R^{11}$, and $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})\ CONR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$, $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, and R′ may be the same or different and are independently selected from a group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyl-aryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, aryl-alkyl and heteroaralkyl;

Z is selected from O, N, or CH;

W maybe present or absent, and if W is present, W is selected from C=O, C=S, or SO_2; and

R, R', R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; C1-C10 alkyl; C2-C10 alkenyl; C3-C8 cycloalkyl; C3-C8 heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro; oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorus atoms (with said oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorus atoms numbering zero to six); (cycloalkyl)alkyl and (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, wherein said cycloalkyl is made of three to eight carbon atoms, and zero to six oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorus atoms, and said alkyl is of one to six carbon atoms; aryl; heteroaryl; alkyl-aryl; and alkyl-heteroaryl;

wherein said alkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and heterocycloalkyl moieties may be optionally substituted, with said term "substituted" referring to optional and chemically-suitable substitution with one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, halogen, hydroxy, thio, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro, sulfonamide, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfonylurea, hydrazide, and hydroxamate; with the proviso that R^2 is not arylalkyl or cyclohexylalkyl.

2. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is COR^5, and R^5 is OH, $COOR^8$ or $CONR^9R^{10}$.

3. (previously presented) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^1 is $COCONR^9R^{10}$, and R^9 is H, R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of H, $CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})$ $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})$ $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, and $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$.

4. (original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R^{10} is $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})$ $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H or alkyl, heteroalkyl and $R^{2'}$ is phenyl, substituted phenyl, hetero atom-substituted phenyl, thiophenyl, cycloalkyl, piperidyl and pyridyl.

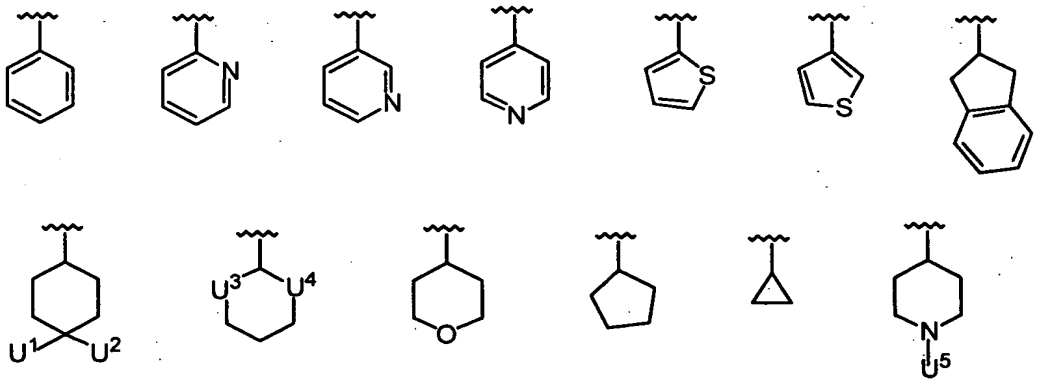
5. (original) The compound of claim 4, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H.

6. (original) The compound of claim 5, wherein

R^{11} is H or *tert*-butyl;

R′ is hydroxymethyl; and

$R^{2'}$ is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

U^1 and U^2 maybe same or different and are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, CH_2COOH, CH_2COOMe, CH_2CONH_2, $CH_2CONHMe$, CH_2CONMe_2, azido, amino, hydroxyl, substituted amino, substituted hydroxyl;

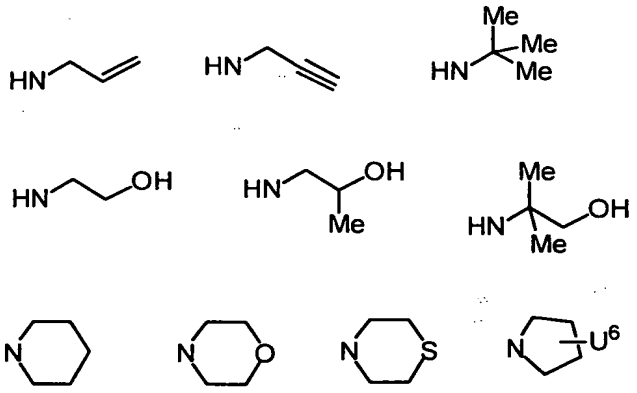
U^3 and U^4 maybe same or different and are O or S;

U^5 is selected from the moieties consisting of alkylsulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, heteroalkyl sulfonyl, heteroaryl sulfonyl, alkyl carbonyl, aryl carbonyl, heteroalkyl carbonyl, heteroaryl carbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl,

heteroaryloxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl and heteroarylaminocarbonyl or combinations thereof; and

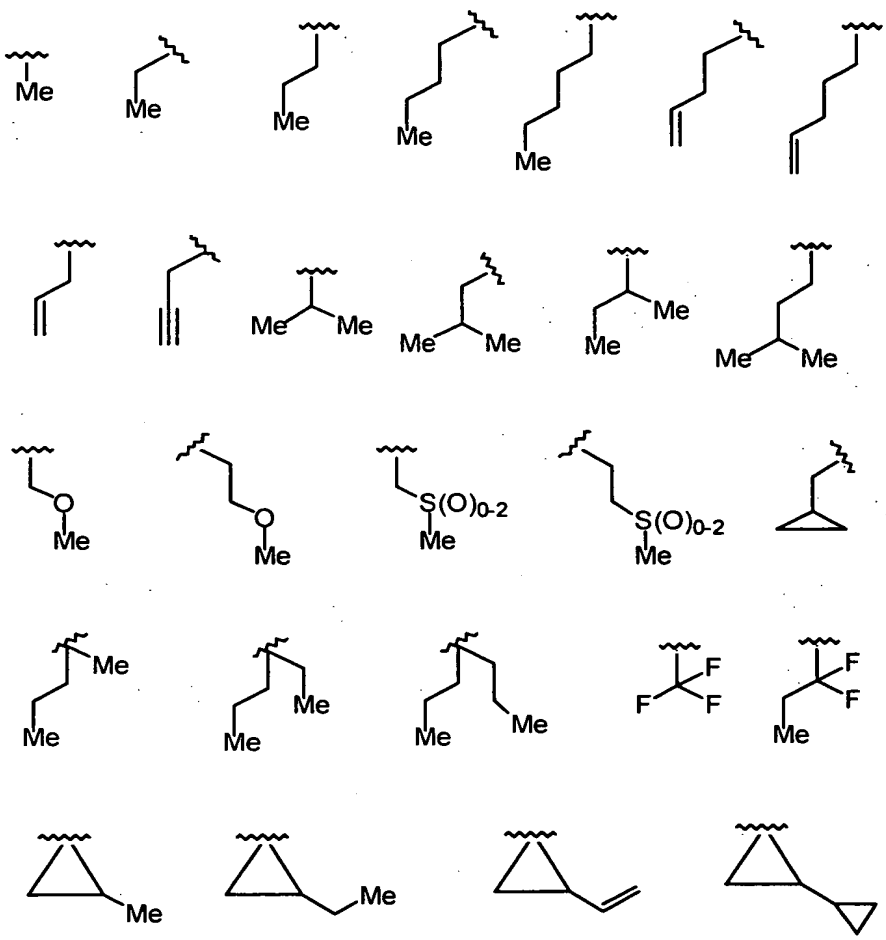
$NR^{12}R^{13}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

NH_2, NHMe, N(Me)OMe, NMe_2,

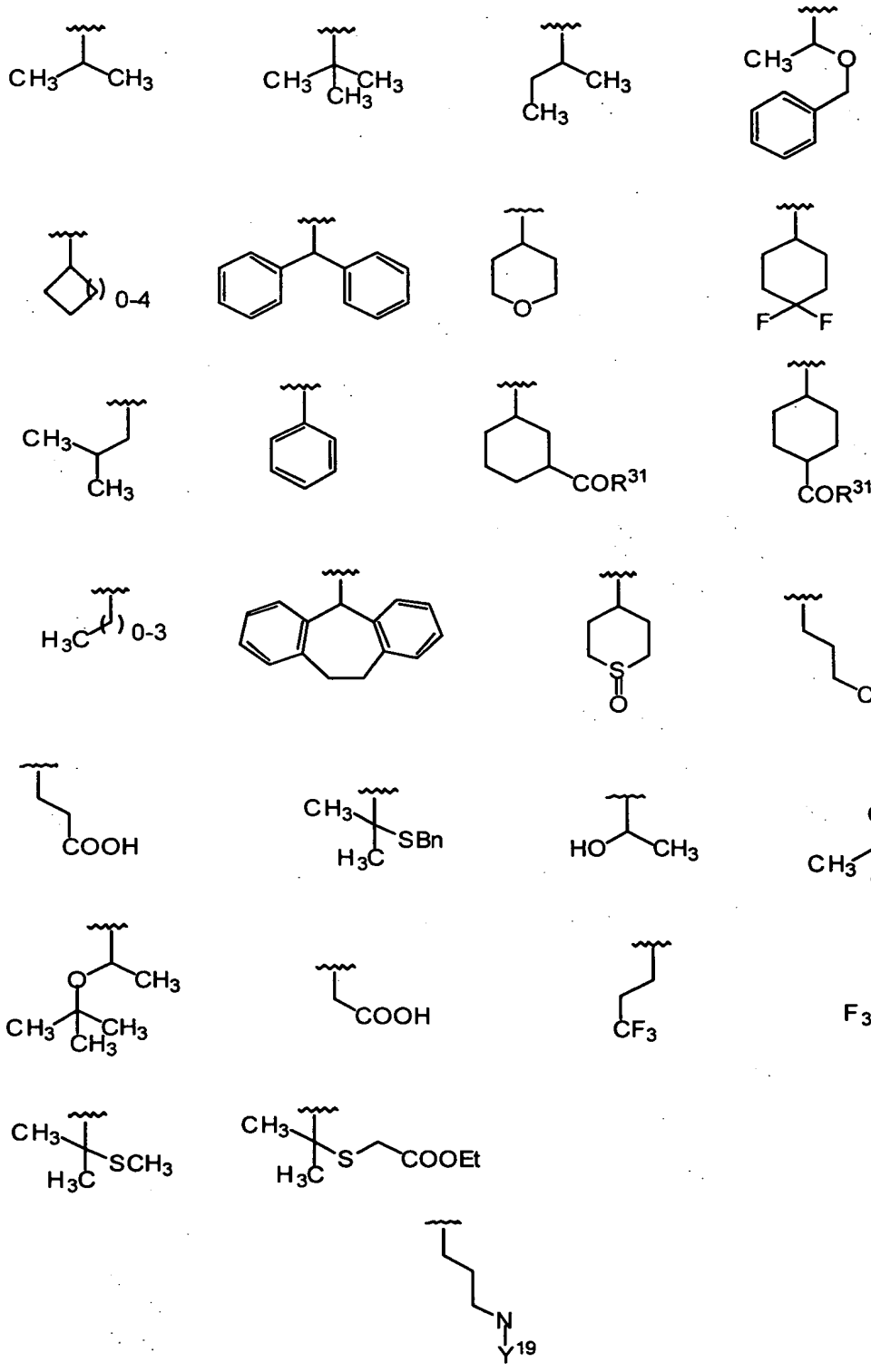


wherein U^6 is H, OH, or CH_2OH.

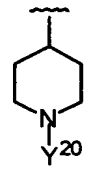
7. (original) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties:



8. (original) The compound of claim 7, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of:

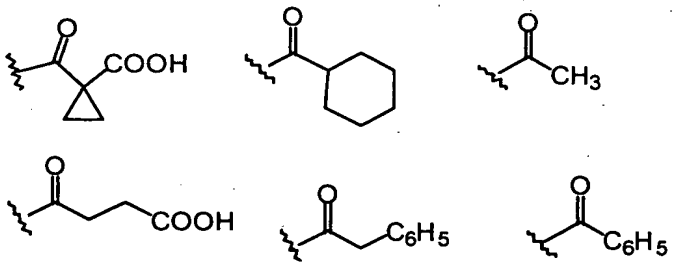

CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
O
0-4
F
F
CH3
CH3
COR31
COR31
H3C
0-3
S
O
COOH
COOH
CH3
SBn
H3C
HO
CH3
O
CH3
CH3
CH3
O
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
COOH
CF3
F3C
CH3
SCH3
H3C
CH3
S
COOEt
H3C
N
Y19

and

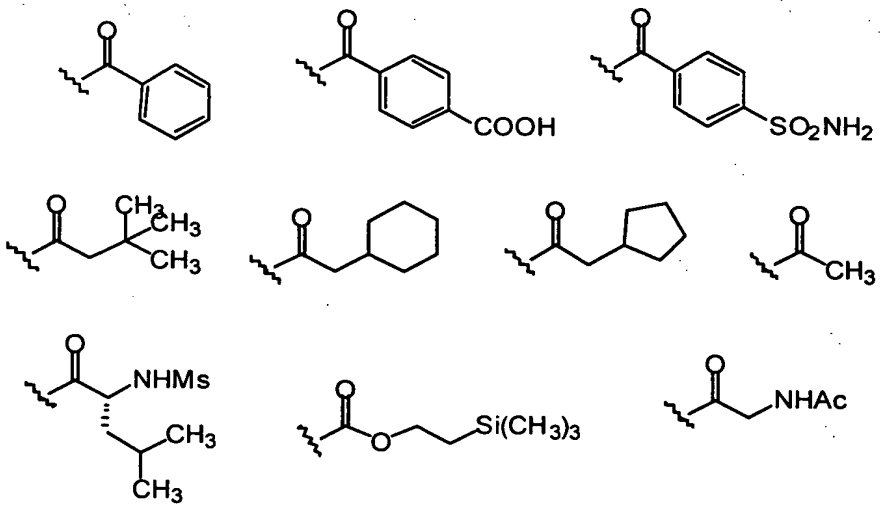


wherein R^{31} = OH or O-alkyl;

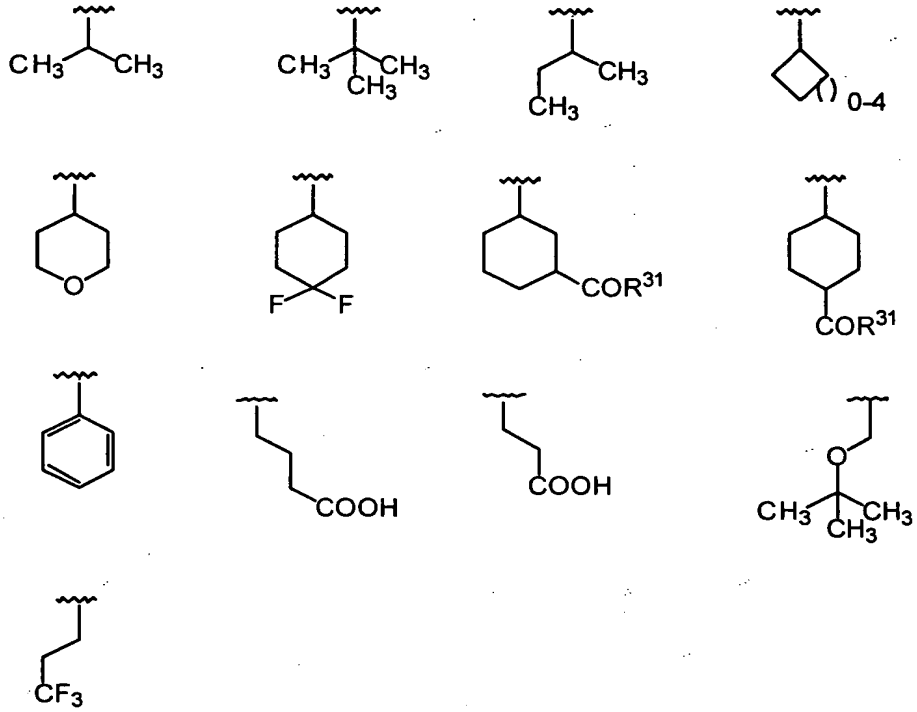
Y^{19} is selected from the following moieties:



and Y^{20} is selected from the following moieties:



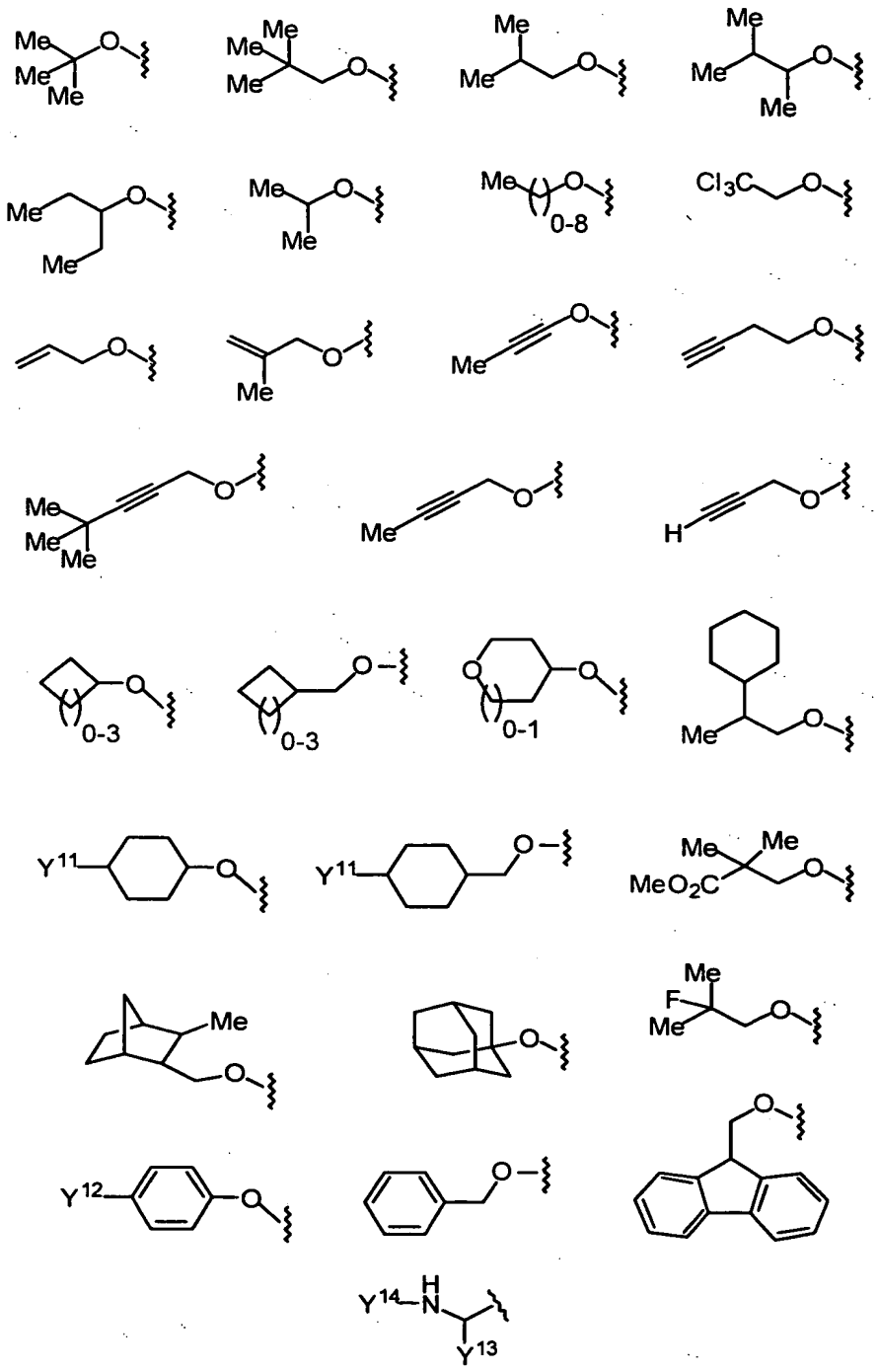
9. (original) The compound of claim 8, wherein R^3 is selected from the following structures:



10. (original) The compound of claim 9, wherein Z = N and R^4= H.

11. (original) A compound of claim 10, wherein W is C=O, or SO_2.

12. (original) A compound of claim 11, wherein Y is selected from the following moieties:


Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
0-8
Cl3C
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
H
0-3
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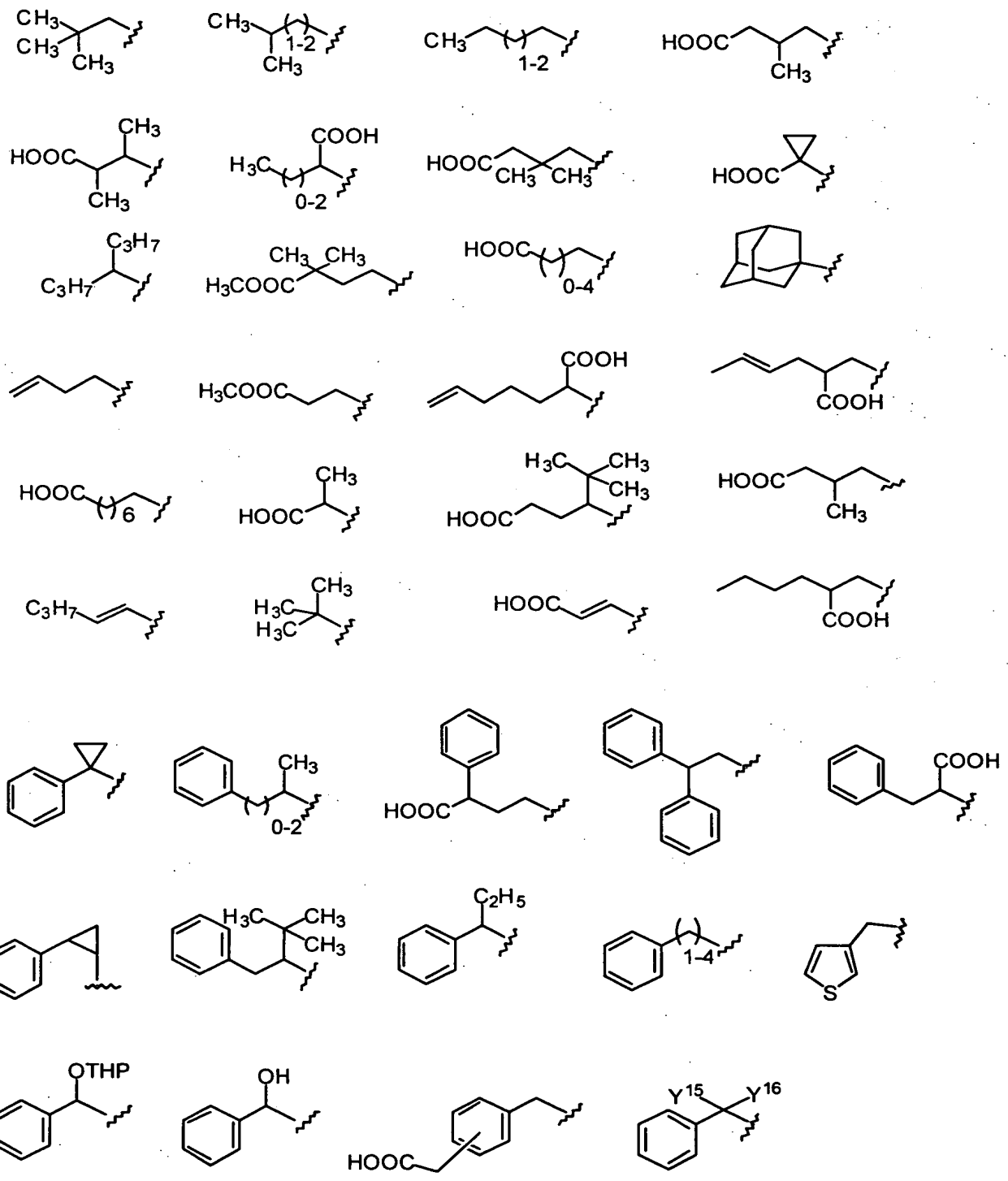
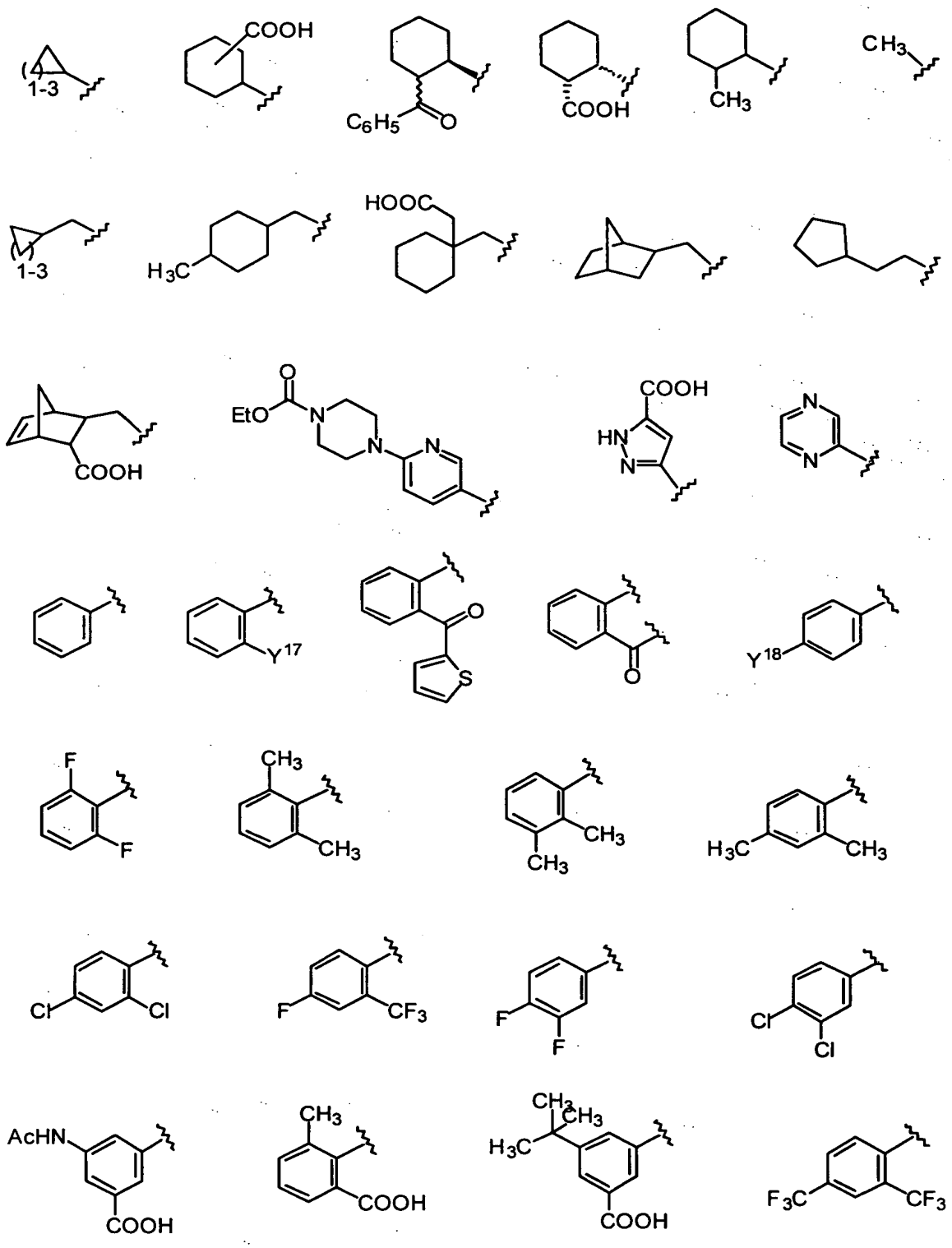
Me
Y12
H
N
Y14
Y13




1-3
COOH
C6H5
O
COOH
CH3
CH3
1-3
H3C
HOOC
COOH
EtO
O
N
N
N
COOH
HN
N
N
N
Y17
O
S
O
Y18
F
F
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
H3C
CH3
Cl
Cl
F
CF3
F
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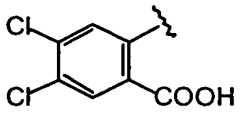
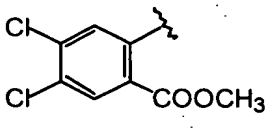
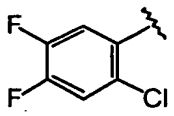
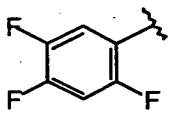
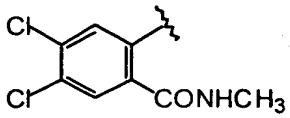
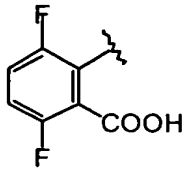
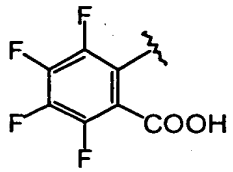
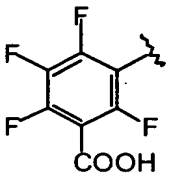
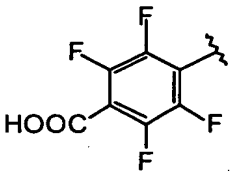
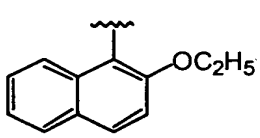
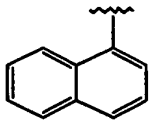
CH3
CH3
H3C
COOH
F3C
CF3

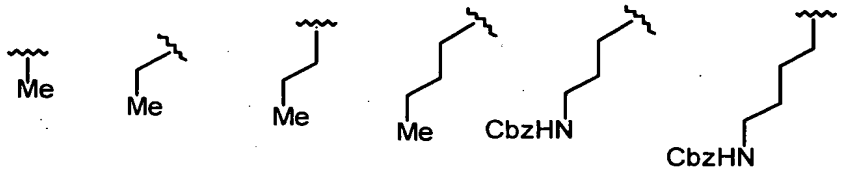
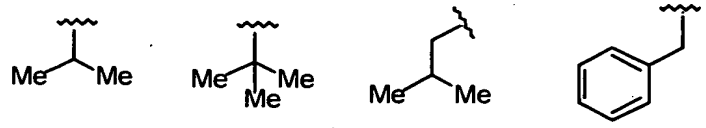
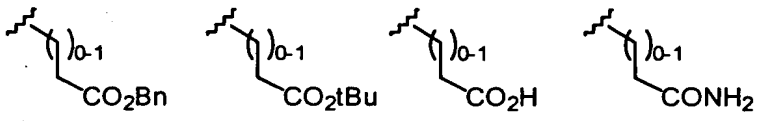












wherein:

Y^{11} is selected from H, COOH, COOEt, Ome, Ph, Oph, NHMe, NHAc, NHPh, $CH(Me)_2$, 1-triazolyl, 1-imidazolyl, and $NHCH_2COOH$;

Y^{12} is selected from H, COOH, COOMe, Ome, F, Cl, or Br;

Y^{13} is selected from the following moieties:

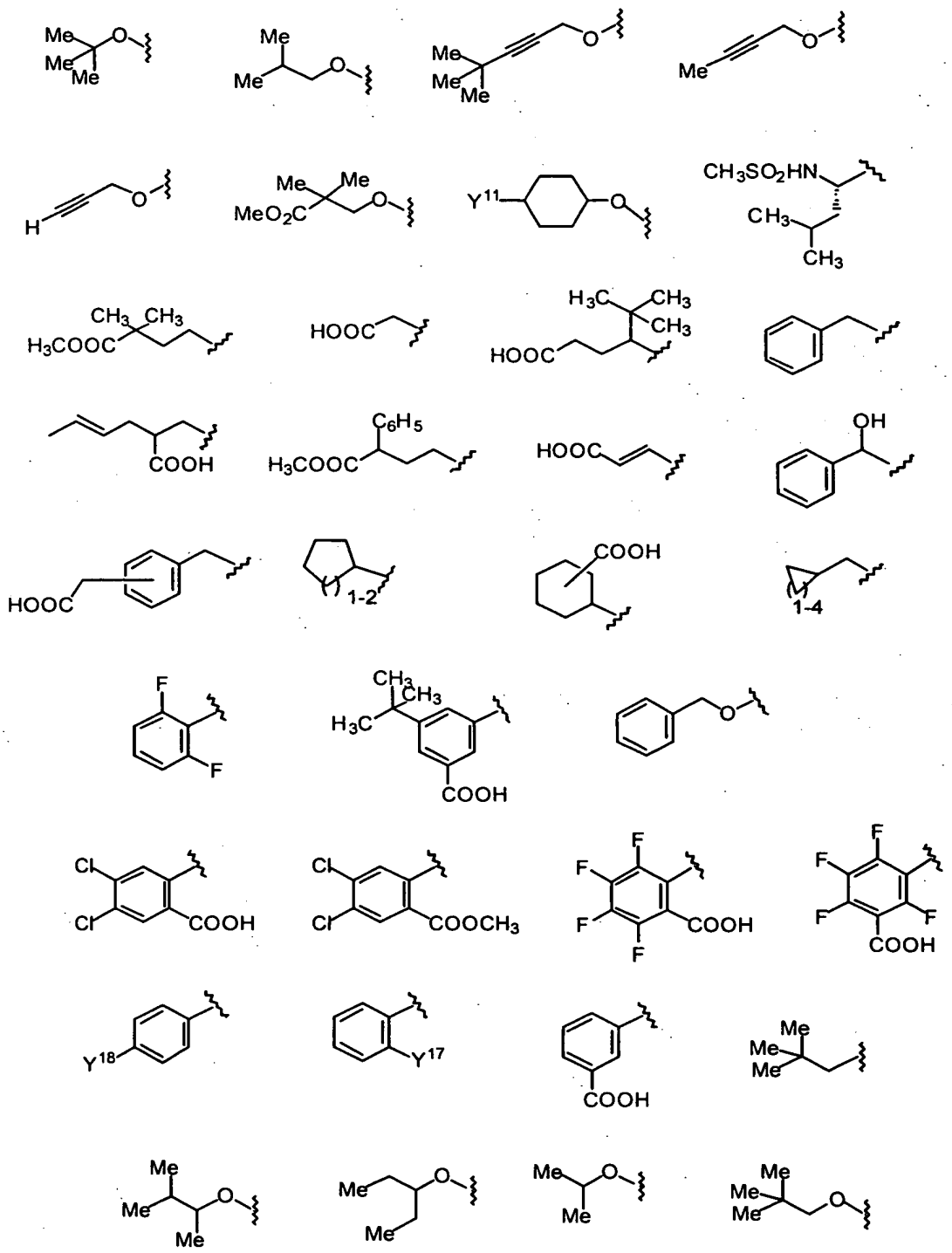
Y^{14} is selected from $MeSO_2$, Ac, Boc, ^{i}Boc, Cbz, or Alloc;

Y^{15} and Y^{16} may be the same or different and are independently selected from alkyl, aryl or herereoalkyl, or heteroaryl;

Y^{17} is CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, $COOCH_3$, OCH_3, OC_6H_5, C_6H_5, COC_6H_5, NH_2, or COOH; and

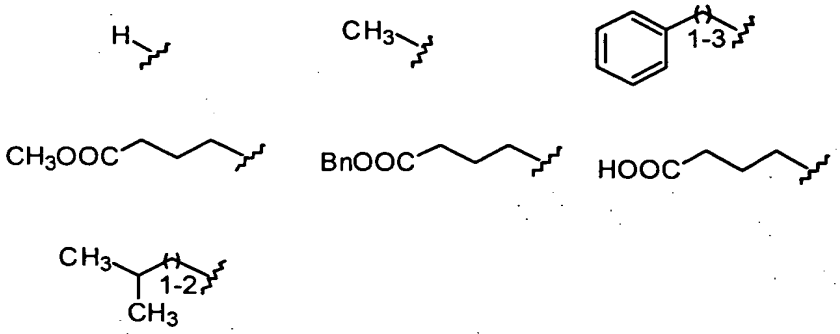
Y^{18} is $COOCH_3$, NO_2, $N(CH_3)_2$, F, OCH_3, CH_2COOH, COOH, SO_2NH_2, or $NHCOCH_3$.

13. (original) A compound of claim 12, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:



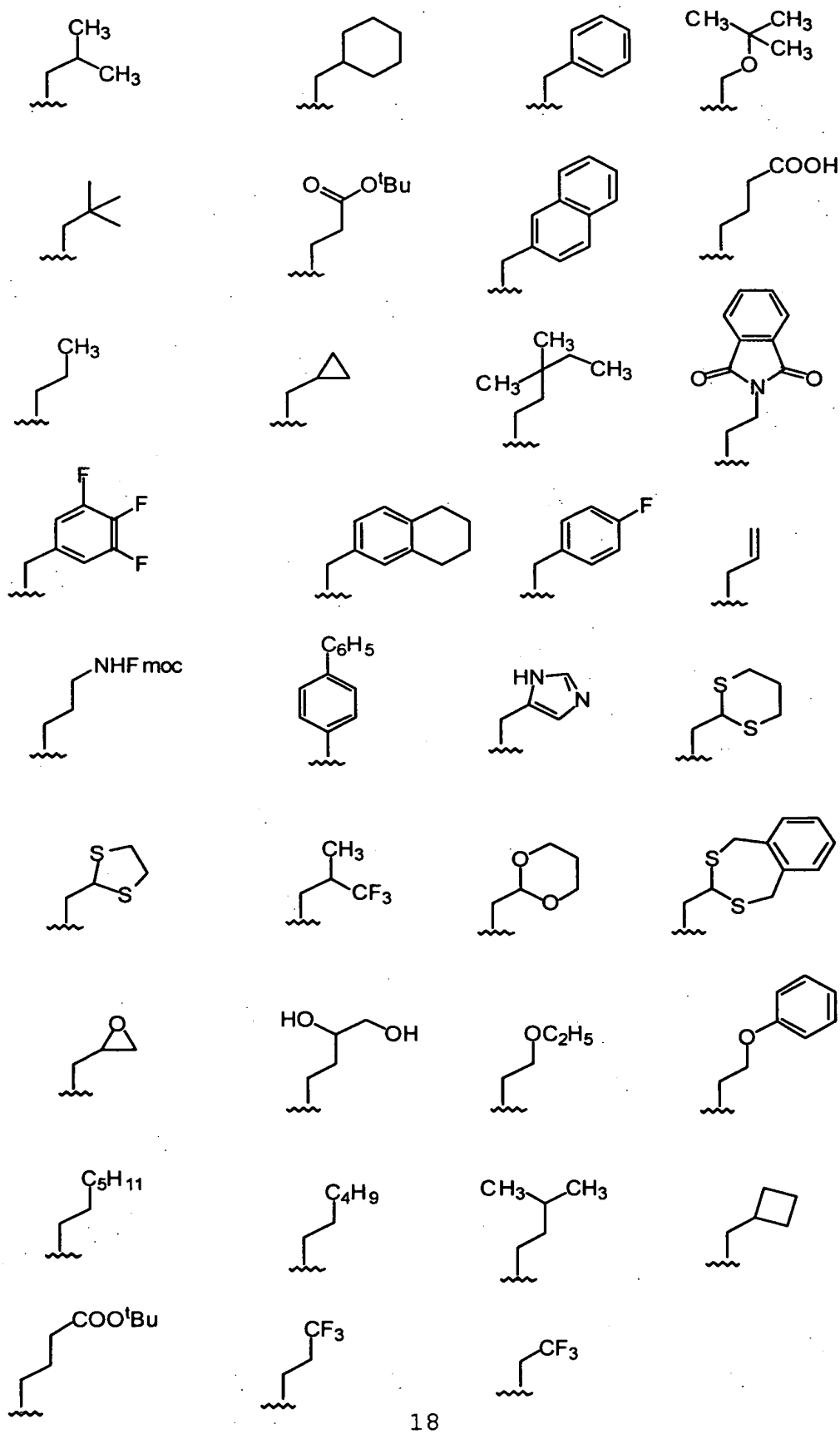
wherein:
Y^{17} = CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, or COOH;
Y^{18}= F, COOH,

14. (original) The compound of claim 13, wherein J is selected from the group consisting of:



15. (original) The compound of claim 14 where in J is H, CH_3 or Bn.

16. (original) The compound of claim 15 wherein G is selected from moieties:


CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
O
O
O
tBu
COOH
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
O
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O
F
F
F
F
NHFmoc
C6H5
HN
N
S
S
S
S
CH3
CF3
O
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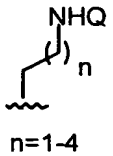
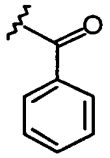
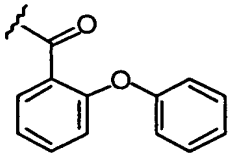
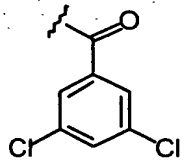
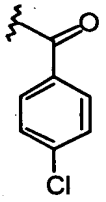
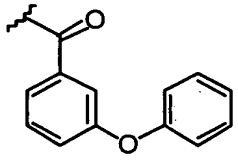
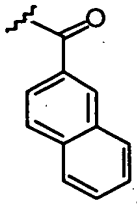
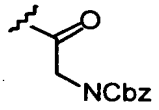
C4H9
CH3
CH3
COO
tBu
CF3
CF3

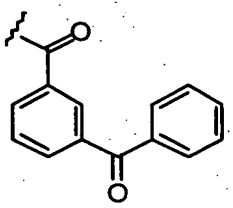
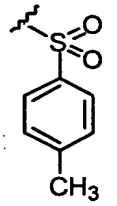


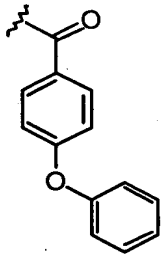
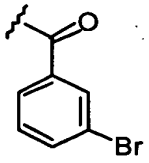
Q=

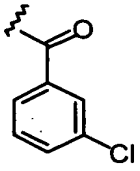






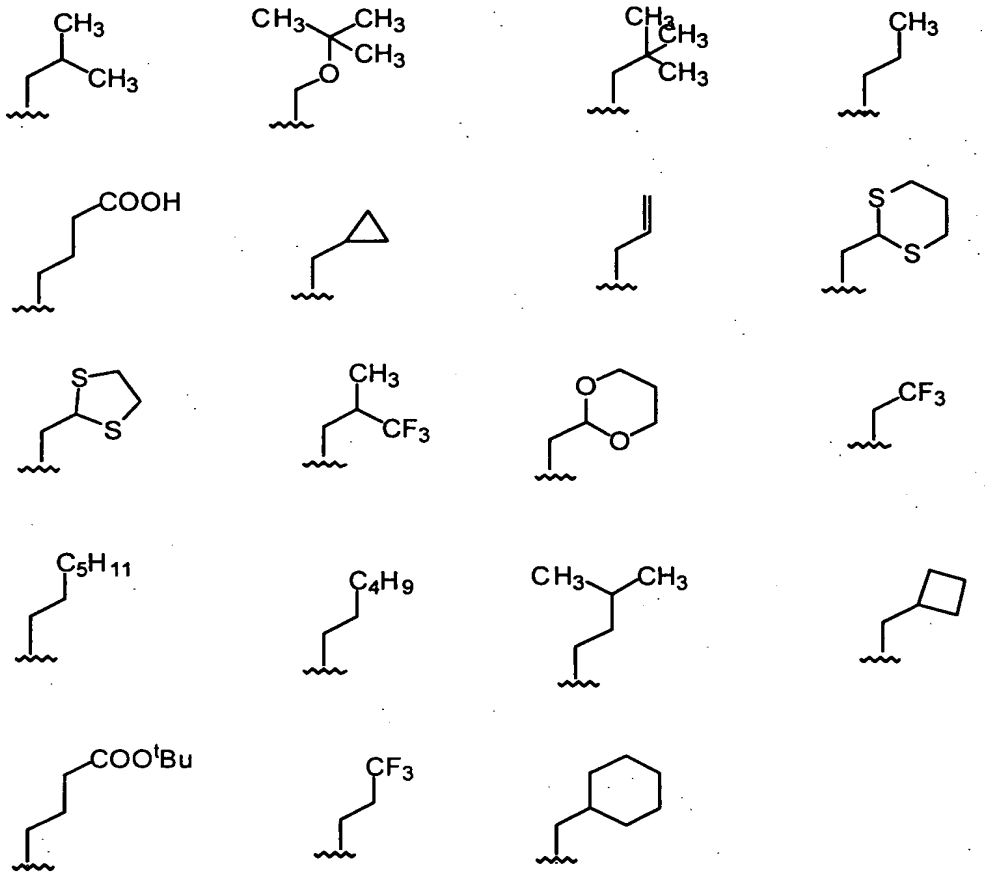






17. (original) The compound of claim 16, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of :



18. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of claim 1.

19. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18 suitable for use in treating disorders associated with Hepatitis C virus.

20. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 18 additionally comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. (canceled)

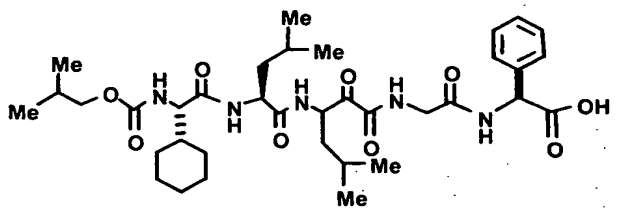
22. (canceled)

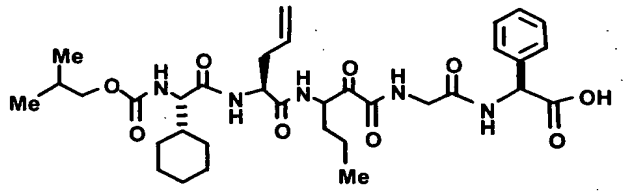
23. (canceled)

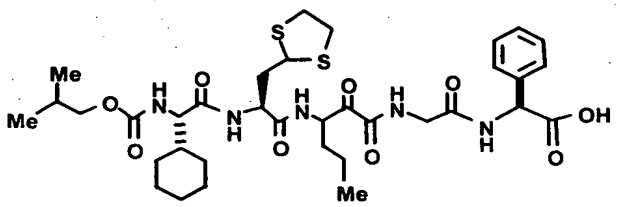
24. (canceled)

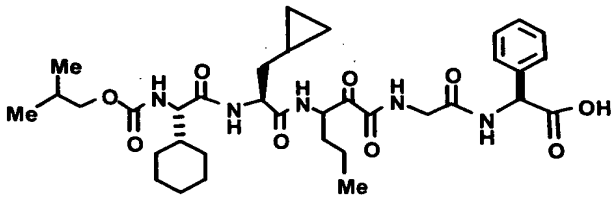
25. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers and tautomers of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound,

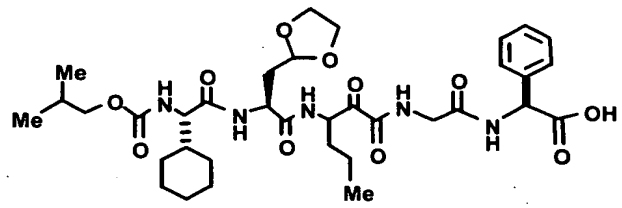
said compound being selected from the group of compounds with structures listed below:

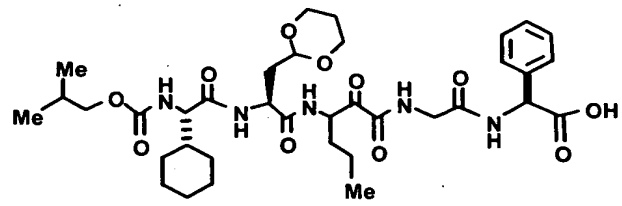


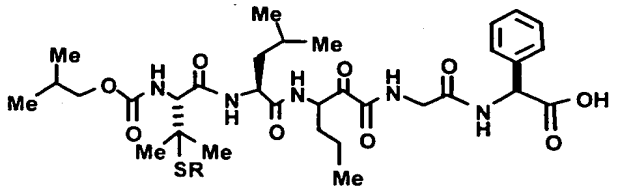






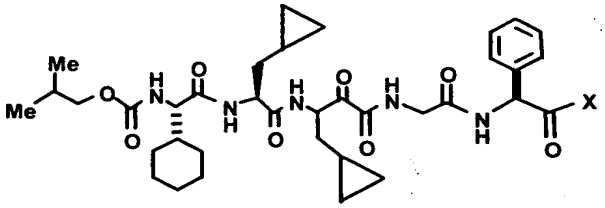






R = Me

R = Benzyl



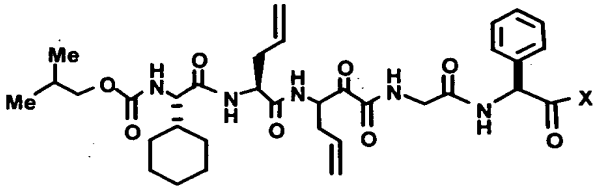
X = O^{t}Bu

X = OH

X = NH_2

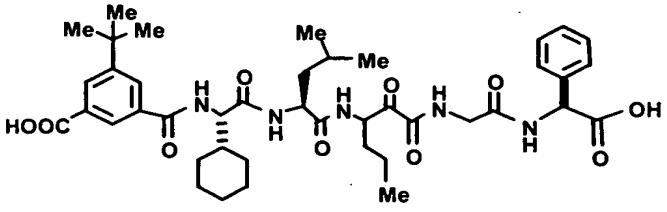
X = NMeOMe

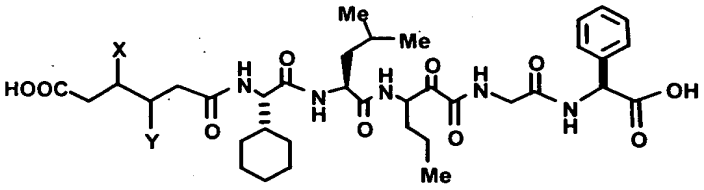
X = NMe_2



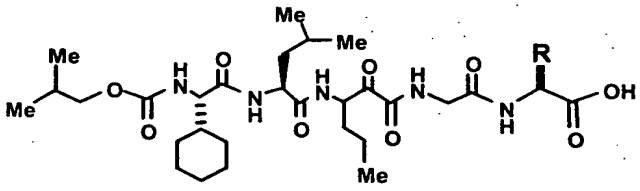
X = O^{t}Bu

X = OH

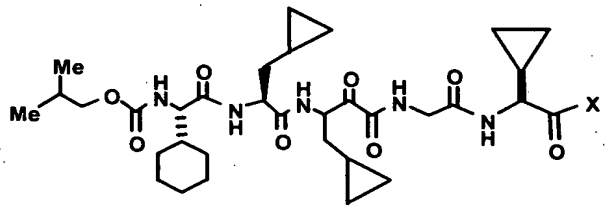




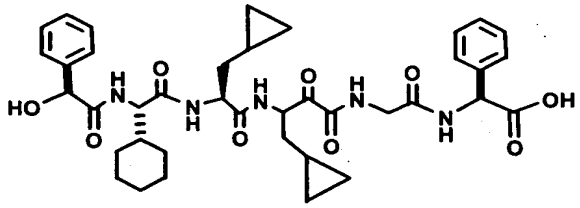
X = H, Y = tBu; X = tBu, Y = H

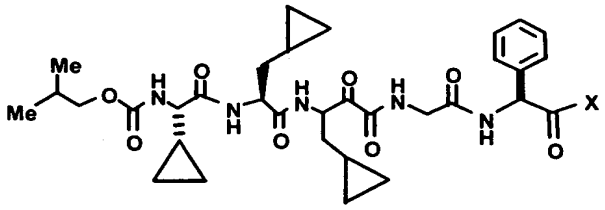


R = Propargyl; R = Allyl



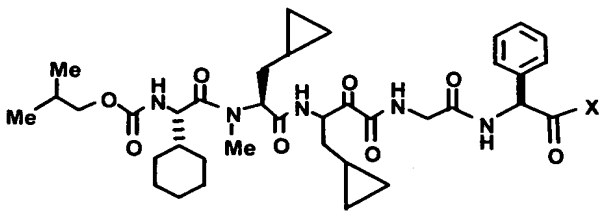
X= O^{t}Bu; X=OH



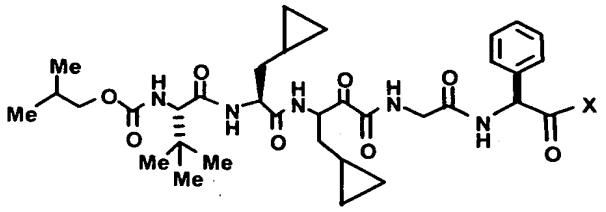


X = O^{t}Butyl

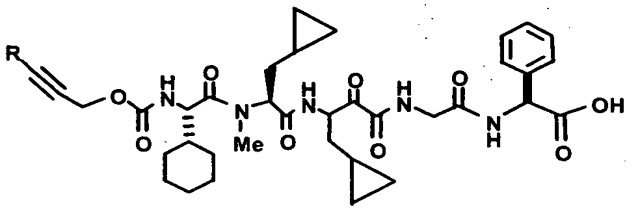
X = OH



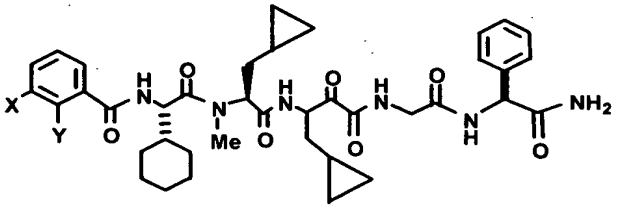
X = O^{t}Butyl
X = OH
X = NMe_2



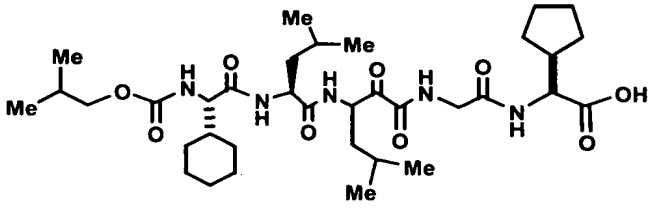
X = O^{t}Bu
X = OH

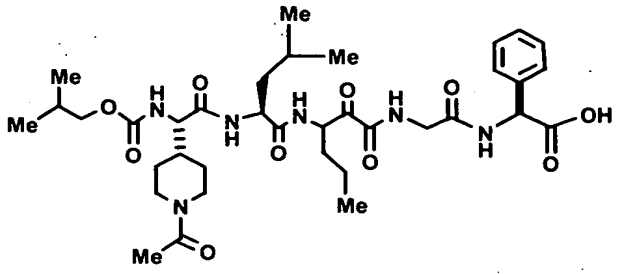


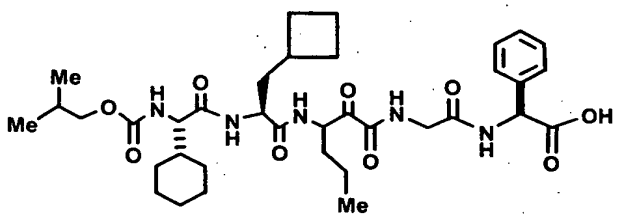
R = ^{t}Bu
R = H
R = Me

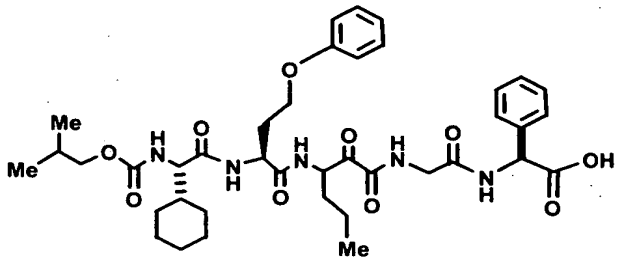


X = H, Y = COOH
X = COOH, Y = H









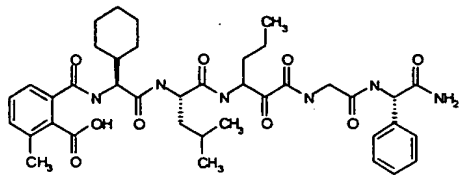
26. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease, said composition comprising therapeutically effective amount of one or more compounds in claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

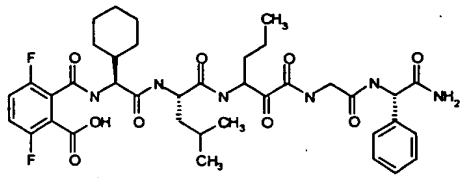
27. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

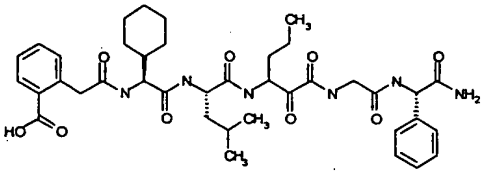
28. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26 or claim 27, further containing an interferon.

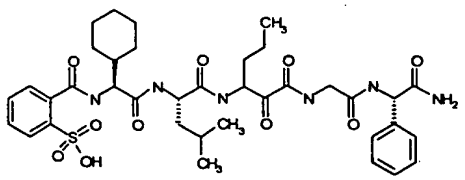
29. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon.

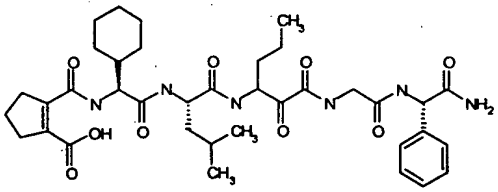
30. (previously presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

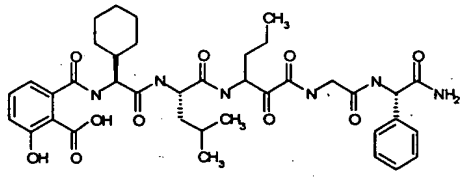


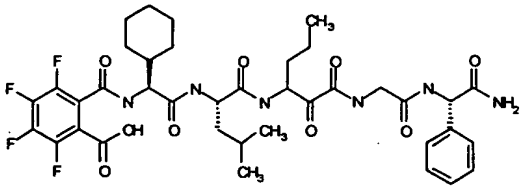


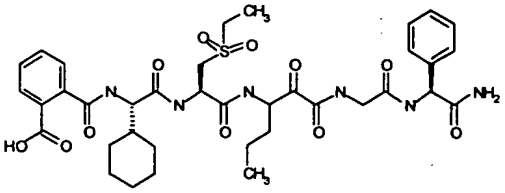


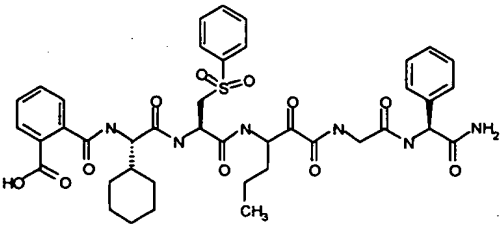


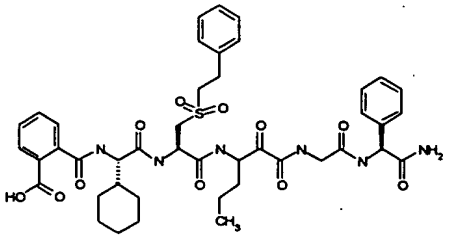


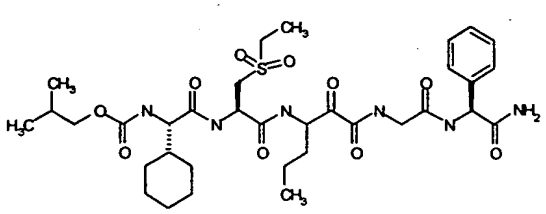


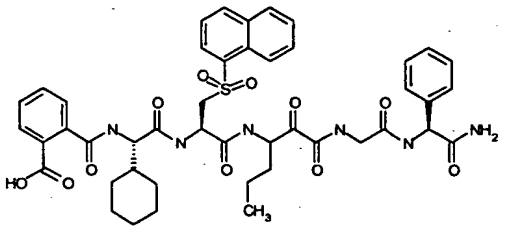


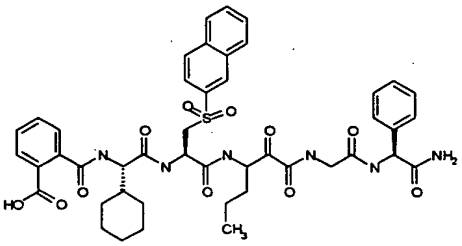


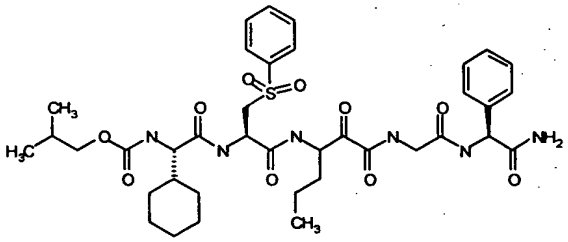


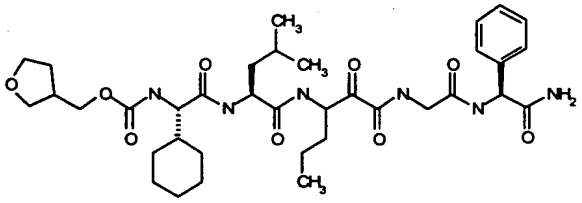




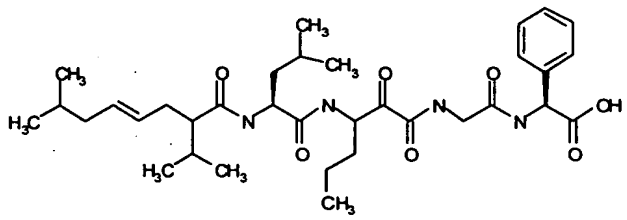








and



or an enantiomer, sterioisomer, rotamer or tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein the compound exhibits hepatitis C virus (HCV) inhibitory activity.

31. (original) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising one or more compounds of claim 30.

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (original) The compound of claim 7, wherein R^3 is cyclohexyl.

39. (original) The compound of claim 11, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of 2-carboxy-3-hydroxyphenyl, 3-tetrahydrofurylmethoxy, and 2-sulfophenyl.

40. (original) The compound of claim 15, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of ethylsulfonylmethyl, phenylsulfonylmethyl, 2-phenylethylsulfonylmethyl and 1-naphthylsulfonylmethyl.